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SAINT PAUL NAMED TOP TEN CITY FOR QUALITY OF LIFE AND BUSINESS FRIENDLINESS BY FINANCIAL TIMES

Saint Paul, Minnesota (**June 29, 2011**) – Saint Paul was recognized as an "American City of the Future" today by *Financial Times* and received awards in two categories: best quality of life and business friendliness. Michael Langley, CEO of Greater MSP, the Minneapolis-Saint Paul regional economic development partnership, accepted the award on behalf of the City of Saint Paul at a ceremony in Washington D.C.

"We are honored that the City of Saint Paul and the Greater MSP region is being recognized for both our quality of life and business friendliness. What a powerful combination of strengths for global economic competitiveness," said Michael Langley, Greater MSP CEO.

"Saint Paul's quality of life and business friendliness are just two of the many assets that our city has to offer. From significant infrastructure investments like the Central Corridor Light Rail Line to major redevelopment and planning projects, we are focused on making Saint Paul a destination for business, home and play," Mayor Chris Coleman said.

Confidence in Saint Paul's future has led to significant investment in Minnesota's capital city. Great schools, a skilled workforce, beautiful parks, a mighty river and business-friendly environment have helped attract nearly \$3 billion in downtown and neighborhood investment since 1998.

The completion of 133 building projects in the last 12 years has resulted in a historic legacy coupled with modern developments and a stable, vital urban center. Concurrently, major public infrastructure investments are underway in highway, bridge and regional transit projects to further connect Saint Paul with the region and beyond. An additional \$3 billion of planned investment through 2015 makes Saint Paul the economic driver for the East Metro area – and one of the most livable cities in America.

Over the past year Mayor Coleman has led a regional effort aiming to realign and reposition the region's innovation and human capital to grow and attract business. The effort is supported by Greater MSP, a private-public partnership charged with fostering economic growth and prosperity in the Minneapolis Saint Paul region. The American Cities of the Future award further acknowledges the city's high level of inward investment and regional appeal.

For more information on Greater MSP, please visit: www.greatermsp.org.